

# The Pipeline

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## McCracken Wins Food Stamp Accuracy Award

*By Mike Jennings, CFC Communications*

McCracken County is one of only 10 counties in an eight-state region that turned in error-free performances last year in administering high volumes of Food Stamp transactions.

The county's program received a gold award during a \$6 Million Club" Food Stamp Payment Accuracy Conference held June 6-8 in Savannah, Ga. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture sponsors the annual conference in an effort to improve accuracy by county Food Stamp programs that issue at least \$6 million worth of Food Stamp benefits to needy families annually.

Three counties in Florida, three in Tennessee, two in South Carolina and one in Mississippi were also error-free during the fiscal year that ended last October. The \$6 Million Club consists of 169 counties in the eight states, which also include Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina.

In Kentucky, 19 counties administer Food Stamp benefits that qualify them for club membership.

At the conference, counties with error rates under 6 percent received blue awards and counties with error rates under 9 percent received red awards. Blue awards went to Christian, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Knox, Laurel, Letcher and Whitley counties and red awards went to Bell, Perry and Pike counties.

Tresa Short, director of Cabinet for Families and Children's division of family support, said the accuracy rates are measured by quality control analysts who review a random sample of Food Stamp cases in each Kentucky county. These analysts, who work for the cabinet, re-verify client information and determine if correct benefits were issued, she said.

As a further check, U.S. Department of Agriculture analysts then reexamine some of the cases that have been reviewed at the state level, she said.

States that achieve Food Stamp accuracy rates above 94 percent in a given year may receive enhanced federal funding for their Food Stamp programs. Short said the \$6 Million Club represents one way to improve statewide rates, since counties

with high volumes of Food Stamp transactions heavily impact the accuracy rates of their states.

Prior to the last two years, Kentucky achieved accuracy rates for several years in a row that qualified it for additional Food Stamp funding, and the state is working hard to attain that goal again, Short said.

Short was one of 131 state and local officials from Kentucky among the 1,200 attendees at the Food Stamp conference in Savannah. She said the conference conveyed "a lot of good, quality information . . . that we can actually come back and maybe change a little bit and use in our own counties" to improve accuracy.



*Kentucky's participants at Food Stamp conference included, from left, Tresa Short, Elaine Fletcher, Renee Buckingham, Jean Bramley, Virgil Conrad and Dietra Paris.*

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## We've Got the Fax!

The CFC Office of Communications has a new fax number. The recent telephone/fax number change is in response to the move of the CHS Office of Communications from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

If you need to reach either office, the contact numbers are as follows:

**CFC Communications** - Telephone: (502) 564-6180  
Fax: (502) 564-7600

**CHS Communications** - Telephone: (502) 564-6786  
Fax: (502) 564-0274

## Pops Picnic at the Park 2000 Helps Frankfort Families

By Margaret Davis Harney, CFC Communications

Have a good time, hear some good music, eat a picnic supper – even dance or sing a song if you want – and at the same time, help families in Frankfort and Franklin County. Tickets are now available, and going fast, for the Pops Picnic at the Park 2000, June 24 at Frankfort's Lakeview Park. All proceeds of the annual event go to the Franklin County Council on Family Abuse, and tickets are tax-deductible.

The Council is a private non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of family violence. It addresses the issues of child abuse, partner abuse and elder abuse through research, community grants and public awareness programs. It also provides coordinated services, emergency housing and financial assistance to victims of family abuse. Council membership includes representatives from local law enforcement, social services, school systems, area churches and other interested citizens.

Tickets for the Pops Picnic may be purchased in advance at the Franklin County Judge Executive's Office, 315 W. Main St. General admission tickets may also be purchased at the gate. Tickets are \$250 for a table for 8 in preferred seating, \$125 for a table for 8 in regular seating, and \$20 per person for shared seating or general admission. Admission is free for children age 5 and under, and \$10 for students, ages 6 – 18.

## Retirement Receptions

**Ann Catt**, Department for Disability Determination Services, Operations Support Branch, is retiring after 32 years of service. A retirement reception will be held in her honor at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 29 in the Conference Rooms at First City Complex. Everyone is invited to attend and wish Ann well in her retirement. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Cox at 564-5028.



**John Newton**, OTS/Network Support Branch, is retiring after more than 30 years service in state government. A retirement reception will be held in his honor from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 30, in the small room in the CHR Building cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend and wish John well in his retirement. If you have questions, contact Renee Ruble at (502) 573-3850.

**Pipeline**, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinet for Families and Children, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for Pipeline are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at [Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us)

## Please Excuse Our Mess

*A letter to CHR complex and Health Services Building employees from John C. Mynhier, Maintenance Section Supervisor, CHR-HSB-Library & Archives*

Finance/Facilities Management has contracted to renovate the Lobby and Front Entrance to the CHR Building. This is a part of the overall security upgrade that has been ongoing for the past few months. As you have noticed, there is also work going on in the parking lot along rows L & M. This is to facilitate parking and access to the building for disabled visitor parking.

The cuts being made to the concrete island in front of the building are a part of the reconfiguration of the driveway to allow for dropping off of personnel entering the building. There will also be two new walkways through the island. Once this is completed the current drive under the front of the building will no longer be accessible to vehicles, except in an emergency.

During the next few days, the contractor will be blocking off part of the front lobby to begin construction of the new Visitor and Security stations. All work within that area will be performed within an enclosure. This is to be performed in two phases to allow for access and egress to and from Vitals and other areas of the building. At times there may be some noise, as is common with most construction work. Please bear with us as we perform these phases of the project. I feel sure you will welcome the new look as well as the security benefits provided.

You may also notice work has begun at the breezeway between the two buildings. This area will have a roll-up gate to further enhance the security of the complex.

Work on this project is due for completion near the end of October.

On a further note, there should be a lot of work completed in the next few months on various floors of the CHR Building. Finance is contracting or has already contracted to remove vinyl wall covering, paint walls, and remove and replace carpet on the fourth and fifth floors. Approximately 8000 square feet of the Vital Stats area on the first floor will receive new floor coverings. Our staff (Building Operations) will be removing, washing, and replacing ceiling slats in these areas as the other work goes on. All of the work will be done within enclosed areas in several phases during the remainder of this calendar year. The remaining floors should receive new carpet and paint in the near future.

Feel free to contact Phil Adkins or me if there is a problem. Our number is 564-2640.

Thanks for your patience. You will be rewarded with a nicer and more secure facility once the above are complete.